



countdown

May 7, 2009

Vol. 14, No. 35

Countdown for STS-125 mission begins Friday at 4 p.m.

NASA launches STSS-ATRR spacecraft from VAFB



◆ Shuttle Update:

Milestones planned for tomorrow (L-3 days) to prepare for Monday's launch of Atlantis on STS-

125 are as follows:

- Prepare for the start of the STS-125 launch countdown.
- Perform the call to stations (3:30 p.m.).
- Countdown begins at the T-43-hour mark (4 p.m.).
- Begin final vehicle and facility closeouts for launch.
- Check out backup flight systems.
- Configure avionics systems for launch.
- Review flight software stored in mass memory units and display systems.
- Verify backup flight system software in Atlantis' general-purpose computer.

Milestones for L-2 through launch can be found at:

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/news/125_milestones.html.

◆ **ELV Update:** A Delta II rocket managed by NASA's Launch Services Program lifted off from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., Tuesday with a spacecraft for the United States Missile Defense Agency. The spacecraft is called the Space Tracking and Surveillance System Advanced Technology Risk Reduction mission, or STSS-ATRR. Liftoff from NASA's Space Launch Complex 2 oc-

curred at 4:24 p.m. EDT. The spacecraft successfully separated from the Delta II about 58 minutes later.



■ PM Challenge 2010 Call for Speakers —

Do you have a topic of interest to NASA program and project management

stakeholders? Submit your speaker proposal for PM Challenge 2010 Above and Beyond! Submissions are due Aug. 7. You can find out more at:

<http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov/Speaker2010.htm>.



■ Still Roving Mars: 5-½ years later —

Dr. James Rice Jr. will present highlights on what the intrepid robotic field geologists have uncovered about the history of water on Mars, and update the status of the ongoing Mars Science Laboratory landing site selection activities. The presentation will be held 11 a.m. Tuesday in the O&C/Mission Briefing Room.

■ **NASA News** — NASA's Interdisciplinary National Science Program Incorporating Research Experience, known as INSPIRE, is accepting applications from high school students through June 30. NASA will make selections in September.

The selectees will participate in an online learning community in which students and parents have the opportunity to interact with their peers, as well as NASA engineers and scientists. It also provides appropriate grade-level educational activ-

ities, discussion boards and chat rooms for participants and their families to gain exposure to the many career opportunities at NASA.

Students selected for the online learning community will have the option to compete for experiences during the summer of 2010 at NASA facilities and participating universities throughout the nation.



■ Philatelic Cancellations

— As a service to KSC employees, the KSC Post Office will hold philatelic envelopes for cancellation on the day of launch. Cachet envelopes bearing the mission emblem of the upcoming shuttle launch may be purchased at the NASA Exchange Stores. Stamped, addressed envelopes may be deposited in the designated drop box in the Headquarters/Room 1546. Stamped envelopes can be mailed in messenger envelopes via the interoffice mail system to the KSC Post Office with instructions to hold for cancellation on launch day or landing day and return to sender or mail to addressee. Do not place loose launch envelopes in the outgoing U.S. Mail without instructions as they may be canceled and mailed the same day received. For further information, please call the KSC Post Office at 867-3752.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 9 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.l.barret@nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 867-2815. You can also find PDF editions of *Countdown* on the Web at: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html.